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# Few UFOs sighted here

Sadly enough, it turns out that Cambridge is fairly dull territory from a UFOlogical point of view, with only a handful of mysterious sightings reported over the last 35 years. Typically, UFO reports come from more rural areas of the country.

The city's jazziest sighting dates back to 1947, when the Boston Globe carried a report of five flying saucers heading into Cambridge above the Harvard Bridge, hotly pursued by a group of army planes. The witness in that sighting was Silas Flashman, a 28-year-old Allston liquor salesman.

In 1964, a retired royal Air Force pilot reported seeing a saucer shape flying above the Sears and Roebuck parking lot in Porter Square. That case is one of the city's best-known, according to Barry Greenwood, a Stoneham postal worker and 17-year UFO devotee who collects information about sightings in this area. The witness in the Sears sighting was considered credible, and was able to provide many details, Greenwood says.

Several other instances of strangely colored lights were reported in the sixties: a dull blue triangle shape near Magnolia Avenue in 1965, a Saturn-like object above Fresh Pond in 1967, a pulsating, blood-red globe at telephone-pole height in Jefferson Park in 1968.

UFOlogy investigator Raymond Fowler of Wenham (one of the MUFON conference speakers) warns that these kinds of reports are vague, and might be explained in a number of ways. He says, for instance, a woman once called him to report a honking, lighted, V-shaped UFO. That apparition, he said, turned out to be a flock of geese reflecting street lights.

All in all, agree Fowler and Greenwood, Cambridge has seen little UFO action. "You're definitely not the UFO capital of the world," Greenwood says.

— PAMELA VARLEY